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Sees Need for Nation To Go in Search of Statesmen

To the Editor,

Your editorial "Are We Losing?" Feb 3 was well-phrased and documented. The pity is that it did not supplant "Free Tuition" at the top of the page, for it is my belief that many of our rural parents care little about their tax dollars going to the support of New York's "tuition free" colleges with their weird curricula of "academic freedom" and New York City politicians' idea of giving their constituents something for nothing. Who pays for it, anyhow?

But to return to the subject of "Are We Losing?", the question which every diving American might well ask himself each morning as he awakens to find our beloved United States not submerged in the revolution of alien ideologies rampant in the topsy-turvy world of today. Aren't we lucky?

Or are we? As we enter the second month of the New Year confusion and chaos everywhere seem intensified. And what seems to be the cause? Leadership? Courage? Never in the history of the world has there been such a paucity of leadership. Politicians—yes! Statesmen—no!

And the United States, emerging as it did from World War II as the most powerful nation on earth and to whom world leadership should normally have ensued, what do we find? At least three American presidents have gone abroad

things diplomatic have returned (literally) without their shirts and the skin of other, besides. A State Department courteously considerate of the feelings and welfare of every unfriendly power, let wishes to threaten us. Prantic secretaries of state, airborne most of their

lives, patching up dubious pacts which won't tell or cohere. A vast C.I.A. which seems to specialize in overthrowing "bad" governments and supplanting them with worse. A "tolerance" to the insults, promptings and jibes of newly emerged nations—weak and scarcely a step from barbarism. An insatiable desire to poke our nose into every conceivable sphere of influence—viz: our recent "offer" to help in the policing of Cyprus. The swift kicks in the rump by some of our Latin neighbors, and the strange deals in wheat and trade, which cause the eyes to blink. The results of all our efforts in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, in Latin America and Malaysia show this abysmal ignorance of true statesmanship.

All these are a result of the selection by our major political parties of men in many instances unsuited to the high offices to which they are elected, choices not guided by the proven ability of the candidate to fill the post, but often by reason of political indebtedness, personal popularity or expediency for the party.

Leadership is not confined to the political arena alone. Herbert Hoover was a geologist; Douglas MacArthur a soldier; Bernard Baruch a financier, and John Glenn an astronaut—with dozens of others who, given a chance, might spare us from chaos. Like Diogenes, let us take the lamp and go in search of statesmen.

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